

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 168

WHEREAS, The Senate of the State of Texas is pleased to recognize Dr. Blandina Cárdenas, who is retiring from her position as president of The University of Texas--Pan American on January 30, 2009; and

WHEREAS, A well-known educator and civil rights advocate, Dr. Blandina "Bambi" Cárdenas began her career as a teacher of migrant preschool children in Del Rio in 1968; she later served as director of Development of Innovative Programs at the Edgewood Independent School District, where she designed an array of programs that became national models and advanced the cause of educational equity and excellence; and

WHEREAS, In 1977, she accepted a presidential appointment as Commissioner of the Administration for Children, Youth and Families in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, where she led a number of national programs, including the Head Start Program, the Child Welfare Program, and the Child Development Research Program; she served on the governing body of the Inter-American Children's Institute of the Organization of American States, and she has worked extensively with Mexican universities and organizations, for which she earned induction into the Orden del Aguila Azteca, the highest honor bestowed by the government of Mexico on a noncitizen; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Cárdenas has an impressive history of educational leadership and community service; she has served as chairperson of the board of trustees of the Educational Testing Service, as a founding member of the board of the Fundacion Solidaridad Mexicana Americana, and as a member of the board of the American Association of Higher Education; before her arrival at The University of Texas--Pan American, she served as dean of the College of Education and professor of educational leadership at The University of Texas at San Antonio; and

WHEREAS, She was named president of The University of Texas--Pan American in 2004 after a 10-month, nationwide search; during her tenure, she has been responsible for a number of initiatives that have distinguished the university and enhanced student success, and she has guided the institution to a new era in research in such fields as economics, border life, medicine, and engineering; and

WHEREAS, For more than 30 years, Dr. Cárdenas has been a strong, creative voice for expanded educational opportunity, and she has earned numerous awards for her efforts to increase the participation of underrepresented groups in higher education; in 2008, she was given a Lifetime Achievement Award for her distinguished work in higher education at the 12th Annual Ford Salute to Education; now, therefore, be it

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RESOLVED, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 81st Legislature, hereby commend Dr. Blandina Cárdenas on her outstanding service to her state and nation in the field of education and extend to her best wishes for the future; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be prepared for her as an expression of esteem from the Texas Senate.

Hinojosa

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on February 10, 2009.

Secretary of the Senate

Member, Texas Senate